

The

Link

B.C.I.T. Library



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Wednesday, November 7, 2001

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legislation
called a threat
to civil liberties**

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Halloween car fire on campus.
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The Link

is the student newspaper of the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Published bi-weekly by the BCIT Student Association, *The Link* circulates 3,500 copies to over 16,000 students and staff.

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LINK LETTERS POLICY

The Link welcomes letters. Letters should be typed, double spaced, under 300 words and can be dropped off at *The Link* or SA offices and sent through campus or regular mail. Your name, affiliation with BCIT and a telephone number to contact you (which will not be published) must be included. Anonymity may be granted at the discretion of staff. Letters on disk, as a txt file, with a hard copy would be greatly appreciated. *The Link* reserves the right to edit for clarity and brevity.

Campus Events

This Calendar column is open for notices of events on all BCIT campuses. Submissions can be faxed to 431-7619, sent by campus mail or dropped off at *The Link* office in the SA Campus Centre (down the corridor between the video arcade and the SA copy centre)

November 5-9

Alcohol Awareness Week. SA sponsored events all week long.

Wednesday, November 7

Last day to withdraw and receive a 'W' on transcript for Fall Full Term courses.

Technology Entry: Last day to withdraw and receive a 'W' on transcript.

Mocktails Booth. Great Hall, SA Campus Centre. 11:30am to 2:30pm. A part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

Fatal Vision Goggles Challenge. Great Hall. A part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

RCMP Information Booth. Great Hall. A part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

Saturday Night Fever on a Big Screen. Great Hall. A part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

BCIT Christian Club. Bible study & worship. 11:30am. SW1-2005. Contact Pastor Calvin 451-4568.

Thursday, November 8

Car Bash. Walking Square outside the Elephant on Campus. 11am to Noon. A part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

Friday, November 9

Car Bash. Walking Square outside the Elephant

on Campus. 11am to Noon. A part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

Kingcomoniwanalaya Luau. Elephant on Campus, SA Campus Centre. 8pm. A part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

Sunday, November 11

Remembrance Day.

Monday, November 12

BCIT Closed. Day in Lieu of Remembrance Day.

Tuesday, November 13

Toastmasters Int'l. SA council Chambers, SA Campus Centre (SE2), 7:00am.

Wednesday, November 14

Electronic Engineering Technology: Last day to withdraw and receive a 'W' on transcript for Fall Full Term courses.

Loonie Toons (\$1 feature film). 11:30am - 2:30pm. Contact Rec Services for more information at 604-432-8287.

BCIT Christian Club. Bible study & worship. 11:30am. SW1-2005. Contact Pastor Calvin 451-4568.

Monday, November 19

SA Council Meeting. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre (SE2). 5:30pm.

Tuesday, November 20

Toastmasters Int'l. SA council Chambers, SA

Campus Centre (SE2), 7:00am.

Wednesday, November 21

BCIT Christian Club. Bible study & worship. 11:30am. SW1-2005. Contact Pastor Calvin 451-4568.

Trades Challenge. Contact the SA for more information.

Thursday, November 22

Recreation Council Social.

November 27-29

EcoXmas: a Christmas crafts fair with an environmental bent. Great Hall, SA Campus Centre.

Tuesday, November 27

Toastmasters Int'l. SA council Chambers, SA Campus Centre (SE2), 7:00am.

Wednesday, November 28

BCIT Christian Club. Bible study & worship. 11:30am. SW1-2005. Contact Pastor Calvin 451-4568.

Tuesday, December 4

Toastmasters Int'l. SA council Chambers, SA Campus Centre (SE2), 7:00am.

Wednesday, December 5

Electronic Engineering Technology: Last day to withdraw and receive a 'W' on transcript for Term B courses.

BCIT Christian Club. Bible study & worship. 11:30am. SW1-2005. Contact Pastor Calvin 451-4568.

Thursday, December 6

Intramurals end.

Recreation Services Drop-In programs end.

Friday, December 7

Technology Entry: Last day of classes.

December 10-14

Examination week for most Technologies.

Friday, December 14

Electronic engineering Technology: Last day of classes before Christmas Break.

Group Fitness ends.

Saturday, December 22

Fall term technology grades available on the BCIT website.

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve.

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day. BCIT Closed.

Wednesday, December 26

Boxing Day. BCIT closed.

Link call 432-8974 Unclassifieds

Bi-curious? Bi? Gay? Club Vancouver, Bathhouse for Bi and Gay Men. Rooms, lockers, steam, showers, snack bar, videos. 24hrs, 7 days. Students 1/2 price all the time with valid student ID. 339 West Pender St. 681-5719

Wanted: Used ping-pong table, folding, on wheels. Call 604-254-8507.

Alcohol Awareness Week Events

November 5-9

ALL WEEK LONG

Car Bash. Walking Square outside the Elephant on Campus. 11am to Noon. A part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7

Mocktails Booth. Great Hall, SA Campus Centre. 11:30am to 2:30pm. A part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

Fatal Vision Goggles Challenge. Great Hall. A part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

RCMP Information Booth. Great Hall. A part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

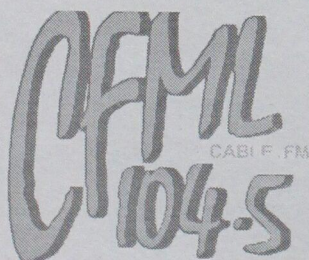
Saturday Night Fever on a Big Screen. Great Hall. A part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9

Kingcomoniwanalaya Luau. Elephant on Campus, SA Campus Centre. 8pm. A part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

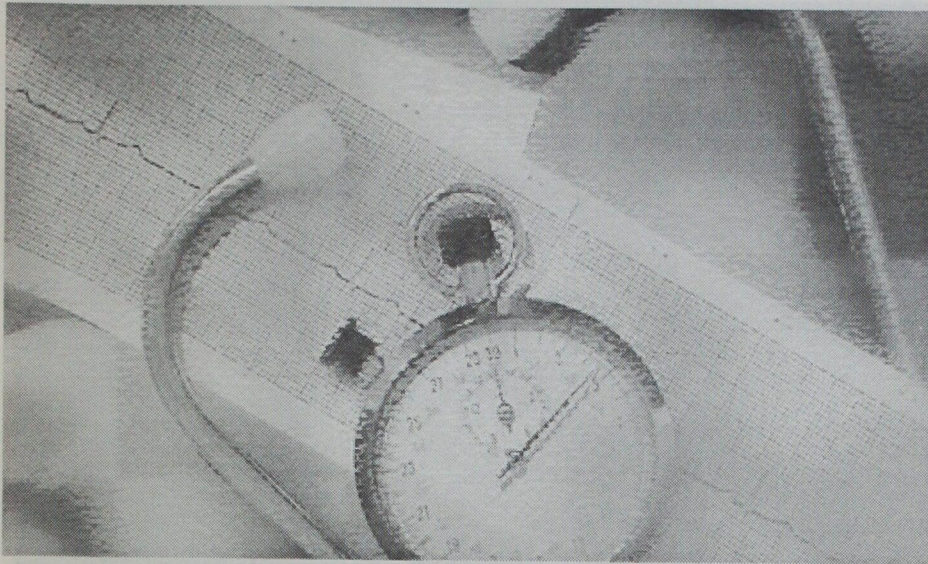


THIS WEEK'S CFML HOT 20



- | | | |
|----|---------------------|--|
| 1 | THE WATCHMEN | Absolutely Anytime |
| 2 | POWDERFINGE | Waiting For The Sun |
| 3 | TRAVIS | Side |
| 4 | DAVID USHER | Alone In The Universe |
| 5 | WEEZER | Jl Island In The Sun |
| 6 | SMOOTHER | East Side |
| 7 | EVE 6 | Here's To The Night |
| 8 | BETTER THEN EZRA | Extra Ordinary |
| 9 | AMERICAN HI-FI | Another Perfect Day |
| 10 | LONG BEACH ALLSTARS | Sunny Hours |
| 11 | CAKE | Short Skirt/Long Jacket |
| 12 | U2 | Stuck in a Moment You Can't Get Overcome |
| 13 | LIVE | Analyse |
| 14 | CRANBERRIES | 19-2000 |
| 15 | GORILLAZ | Black Black Heart |
| 16 | DAVID USHER | Wild |
| 17 | POE | Falling For The First Time |
| 18 | BARENAKED LADIES | Sick Cycle Carosoul |
| 19 | LIFEHOUSE | Androgyn |
| 20 | GARBAGE | |

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Student health and dental plan referendum passes

CAMERON RANKIN
Link News Reporter

B CIT students will now have a health and dental plan, following the approval of the proposed plan by Gallivan and Associates by a referendum of students.

The BCIT Health plan referendum was held between the dates of October 22-24, 2001. Out of 6538 eligible voters 966 cast a vote, which means that 14.7 percent of eligible voters cast a ballot. The SA's target was 10 percent of eligible voters.

When asked about the voter turnout SA president Brent Morris said "I'm pleased with the turnout based on past experience with voting on campus". The voting results were:

Medical: 69% yes, 31 % no
Dental: 72 % yes, 28 % no

When asked how he felt about the results SA president Brent Morris said "I am confident with the results shown and am excited for January first"

The SA plans on implementing the plan beginning Jan 1, 2002 with a cost of approximately \$190 with coverage commencing Jan 1, 2002 and ending August 31, 2002.

The health plan will be mandatory for all full time students at BCIT, with students who already have an extended medical plan being given the option to withdraw from the plan. The fees for the plan will be part of the student fees that students pay as part of their regular student fees. The fee for a full year is \$208 a year.

Some of the benefits students will be entitled to are as follows:

- 80 percent Coverage on prescription with a Drug card you can take to your pharmacists
- 80 percent Coverage on Medical
- 70 to 80 percent Dental with checkups being covered once a year
- The plan does not cover optical benefits
- Private tutorial service if the student is confined to home or hospital due to illness or injury for 15 consecutive school days

Gallivan and Associates the consultant who is helping the SA find and negotiate an insurance provider will have an office open on campus to administer the health plan and to help students with any questions or problems they might have about the health plan.

AGM marks successful year with many accomplishments, says SA president

On Monday October 29, 2001 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the BCIT Student Association was held their was three items on the agenda for the AGM beginning with the Auditors report on the SA's financial position for the year 2001 Their has been substantial increases in the SA's:

- Operating Income
- Revenues
- Cash Flows

The Auditors EVANCIC PERRAULT ROBERTSON were questioned about student fees Amount of money the SA has received from BCIT is substantially less than the amount the SA

calculates it should have received.

According to Marie Halfnights vice-president of Administration and Finance the money that should have been received was approximately \$1.4 million instead of the \$825,158 received by the SA. *The Link* will keep you informed on further developments in this story.

EVANCIC PERRAULT ROBERTSON was appointed as the Auditor's for the 2001- 2002 school year.

SA president Brent Morris made a report on what the SA has accomplished over the past year including:

- Renovations to the Main TNT store
- New accounting software for the TNT stores
- Signed a two year agreement with Microsoft for the new XP edition software
- Changes to the constitution
- Negotiating a collective bargaining agreement with the BCGEU for the newly unionized daycare workers
- Completed the Medical Referendum

SA president Brent Morris said "he feels that it has been a successful year and he is looking forward to an exciting year"

SA sanctions new East Indian dance club

SA Council Notes
Cameron Rankin

B CIT has a new club called the East Indian Dance Club (EIDC) to which the Student Association gave approval to at its October 29th meeting. The club's objectives are to:

- Organize and develop various styles of dance teams
- Allow all BCIT students the opportunity to become aware of the east Indian culture through various events
- Allow students to use their leisure time to meet new students and help relieve stress from studies.
- Fundraise through various cultural events on campus to help fund future dance events

The student council sanctioned the EIDC to operate on the BCIT campus. The council then moved on to other business.

The Canadian Blood Services (CBS) blood drive held on campus was a success, CBS were aiming for 90 donors and 110 student's faculty and staff donated blood.

Preparation for Alcohol Awareness week, to be held from November 7 -12, is on schedule.

The results for the Medical\Dental referendum were announced.

A motion to increase the honorarium for the councilors at Sea Island Council was defeated with SA president Brent Morris casting the deciding vote in an 8 to 8 deadlock.

A request by Computer science technology for funding from the SA to send an ACM programming team to Cheney, Washington to compete against 57 schools from Canada and the us including UBC, SFU and Berkley was approved. The SA approved \$500 in funding.

A motion to approve \$3,600 in funding for shelving for the daycare on campus was approved. The SA is investigating having he work done by the carpentry students on campus.

A motion to approve funding not to exceed \$11,000 for computer upgrades for the TNT stores on campus was passed.

The council approved a motion to set up a sub-council at BCIT's PMTC Campus.

The SA's Alcohol Awareness week is running November 5 to 10. The car bash, which will be continuing throughout the week, raised \$200 on Monday.

The SA is being sued by its previous auditors-Price-Waterhouse-Coopers-for \$14,000. Payment for work done last summer is at the heart of the dispute.

BCIT and the SA have signed a food services agreement on November 2. This concludes a four hour legal dispute between the institute and the SA. (more next issue)

The SA has formed committees to address the issue of poster clean-up around campus and the cleanliness of the Great Hall.

The next Council meeting, the last of 2001, will be held on Nov 19, 2001 in the council boardroom.

Car burns at BCIT on halloween night



Halloween cost someone their car on the night of October 31.

Residents in Maquinna were disturbed by a large explosion at 11 o'clock. Following a night of fireworks that made BCIT sound like a war zone, residents at first thought it was just another firework. Instead it was the gas tank on a late model sedan exploding.

Students from the residence gathered to watch firemen put out the fire.

BRUCE MCTAGGERT PHOTOS

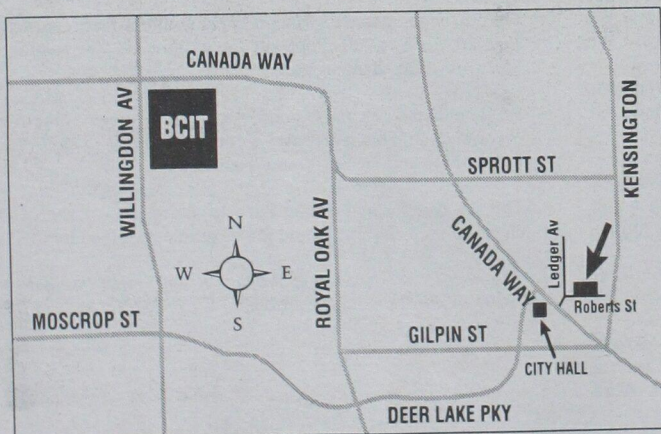
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Institute shows its hallowe'en spirit



Clockwise from top left: BCIT's childcare; a bunny in the Campus centre; Josie and a Pusycat; TNT staff members; BCIT student services staff walking the streets and a broadcast student in Ralph Wigam's costume.

KIM CHOINIERE PHOTOS

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Tel: (403) 329-2762 Fax: (403) 380-1805
Inquiries@uleth.ca www.uleth.ca

Big Brothers seeking BCIT volunteer mentors

BRUCE MCTAGGART
Link News Reporter

When you were a kid did you have adults in your life who were your friends. I was lucky enough to have an older friend who taught me how to build guitars. He was studying to be a Industrial Education teacher and he was a huge positive influence on my life. Not every kid has this opportunity. In fact, not every kid even has two parents.

Big Brothers of Vancouver is looking for volunteers to help youngsters in the community. This is important work as it may be the key to a kid having a happy and successful childhood. Happy kids become productive adults and contribute to the society we live in.

Big Brothers is currently recruiting for three programs. They are the Traditional Community Mentoring Program, the Let's Be Friends Mentoring Program, and the In-School Mentoring Program.

The Traditional Community Mentoring Program is for male volunteers who wish to establish a long term relationship with a young boy. The volunteer must be willing to commit to maintaining the relationship for at least a year. Typically the Big Brother would spend four hours a week doing activities with the Little Brother. The Little Brothers are between 7 and 12. I had a friend who mentored a Little Brother for about five years and he found it to be a very rewarding experience.

The Let's Be Friends Mentoring Program is for male and female volunteers who would like to mentor a boy or girl from a Chinese-speaking family. This is a really important program as it allows youngsters to meet people whose first language is English and to experience Canadian culture. The commitment for this program is a few hours a week for six months. You don't have to speak any Chinese to be a mentor, but you might learn some from your Little Brother.

The In-School Mentoring Program is for volunteers who don't have time to volunteer for the other programs but would like to get involved. Volunteers meet with selected students for one hour a week on school property and share activities such as games and sports.

These programs are really important and it would be nice if they had lots of volunteers. Children that get a bad start in life are hugely expensive to society. Prisons are full of them.

Big Brothers have been around for a long time and they have good training programs. Volunteers have to pass a screening which includes a police background check.

If you are interested in the programs, call Big Brothers at (604) 876-2447 or email them at mail@bigbrothersvancouver.com

Former cabinet minister speaks out against globalization

BRUCE MCTAGGART
Link News Reporter

Globalization is bad for Canada. So says Paul Hellyer, former Liberal Cabinet Minister who was Minister of Defense under the government of Pierre Trudeau. This man is not a left wing flake. He has an immense history in business, politics and public affairs.

He spoke to a good crowd at the Vancouver Public Library on October 15. Hellyer has formed the Canadian Action Party to fight globalization and the North American Free Trade Agreement. He says that our country is in danger of being annexed by the United States and most of the crowd seemed to agree.

Hellyer addresses the same concerns that David Orchard raises. The difference

is that Hellyer believes that the way to defeat the free trade agreement is to organize a new political party where Orchard believes the answer is to take over the Progressive Conservative Party. Orchard came second to Joe Clark in the last PC leadership race.

Hellyer's philosophy can be summed up by the following quote.

What globalization means.

I can give you a fairly accurate picture of what globalization is accomplishing. Universal access to health care is being cut back in Canada and around the world. I don't think there is a single exception. Universal access to education is being cut back in Canada and all around the world. Concern for the environment is being cut back in Canada and all around the world.

Unemployment has been high in Canada, 8 per cent, one million people, looking for jobs, eating their hearts out. It's absolutely, totally immoral and it's the same all around the world 350 million people are unemployed and a total of about one billion people are either unemployed or underemployed. It's a genuine tragedy.

The only exception, of course, is the United States which is using the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to blast its way into Third World markets. And it has the added advantage of its currency being the international currency of exchange. In fact, the only beneficiaries of globalization are the officers, directors and principal shareholders of multinational corporations who don't seem to give a damn about anybody else.



BC Liberals introduce 'first-job' wage

Sarah MacNeill Morrison
The Ubsysey, University of BC
Canadian University Press

VANCOUVER
The B.C. government announced this week it will introduce a lower minimum wage for youth working their first jobs.

Starting November 15, first-time workers in the province will be paid a 'first-job rate' of \$6 an hour for the first 500 hours of their employment. The wage is \$2 below BC's regular minimum wage, which was raised 40 cents to \$8 an hour this week.

"The first-job rate is a first step to help strengthen youth employment options," labour minister Graham Bruce said in a release. "The first-job rate recognizes the valuable service employers provide to new workers, and the fact that it can take several months before new workers are fully trained."

However, NDP MLA Jenny Kwan, said the new system could easily be abused by employers.

"A person could work up to close to six months at \$6 per hour and then get fired," she said. "I think it's a very dangerous thing to do, and it puts people at a very vulnerable stage in terms of employment practices and employment standards."

"It's shocking to me that they have

implemented this," Kwan said.

The BC Government and Service Employees' Union also criticized the move. The union's president, George Heyman, called the new wage "an insult to young workers."

"This program is subject to wide-open abuse by employers and will need a whole new system of record keeping to insure that each employees' hours are accounted for," he said in a press release.

"I wonder if the premier is willing to pay his ministers and deputy ministers 25 per cent less until they learn the ropes," Heyman said.

Kwan also expressed concern that the new wage would affect young people, particularly students working towards post-secondary degrees who often rely on four-month work periods to fund their education.

"If you have to go through a training wage at \$6 an hour, you are effectively completely disadvantaged and I think many employers would not hesitate to take advantage of students and families," she said.

Yvette Lu, a vice-president of the University of British Columbia's student association, said the difference between the regular minimum wage and the first-job wage could be prohibitive for students trying to pay for their education.

"This will be tough for students because

six months is a long time and...500 hours at \$2 an hour [is] \$1000 and \$1000 is a lot of money for a student," she said.

Lucy Watson, an organizer for the Canadian Federation of Students said her organization was concerned over the possibilities of a tuition increase in the province. A decrease in the minimum wage for young workers, she said, could leave many people unable to afford college or university.

"It's very much a concern when we hear that students and young people are put into a category that's separate and distinct," she said. "The BC Liberals are showing contempt for the value of work for young workers."

BC will not be the only province to have a 'training wage.'

Nova Scotia, the Northwest Territories and Ontario also have separate minimum wages for first-time workers.

However, the gap between the two different minimum wages in BC is \$2. In other provinces and territories the variance ranges from 45 to 90 cents.

BC has the highest youth unemployment rate in Western Canada at 13.6 per cent, compared with 8.4 per cent in Alberta, 10.5 per cent in Saskatchewan and 8.8 per cent in Manitoba.

New BCIT entrepreneur club holds its first membership drive

CAMERON RANKIN
Link News Reporter



The Association of Collegiate Entrepreneurs (ACE)- BCIT chapter is holding its first membership drive on campus from Wed November 7th to Wed November 14th in the Great Hall of the SA Campus Centre from 11 am to 2 pm. They will be in the JW Inglis building (NE1) on Wed November 7th and Wed November 14th from 11 am to 2pm. The cost to become a

member is \$25 for during the month of November, \$ 35 after.

ACE-Canada is a national, not-for-profit organization founded in 1987, dedicated to inspiring and preparing young Canadians to pursue their entrepreneurial possibilities.

ACE does this by helping students with a viable business plan

to fund their enterprise with the profits being returned to ACE.

To get more information about ACE-BCIT you can go to the ACE Canada website at www.acecanada.ca or email:

Cameron Laker
President ACE-BCIT
laker09@hotmail.com

Dixon Chow
Executive Director ACE-BCIT
dchow@dcnet.com

EcoXmas

Conquering some Xmas stress and helping out the environment

TODD JOHNSTON
Environmental Education Coordinator

“Exams are up in a few weeks and then there’s Christmas to think about - last minute shopping for everyone in crowded malls packed with panicked shoppers, and then who can afford to buy gifts on a student budget anyways and besides that all this commercialism is really getting to me I mean is that all Christmas is really about is buying a bunch of expensive gifts that nobody really wants anyways?”

STOP.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

Does this sound like your internal dialogue around Mid December? If so, you might be interested in some free gift making workshops offered in the Great Hall Tuesday, November 27 through to November 29.

EVENT
EcoXmas
November 27-29 in the Great Hall

Christmas time puts a lot of stress on people as well as the environment. It puts us under pressure to spend money on gifts for people in a short amount of time, usually with little thought or heart put into it, as we are purchasing under the gun. This often results in the giving and receiving of presents that will spend the rest of their lives in a closet collecting dust...what a waste! And speaking of waste, let’s not forget about the amount resources and energy that goes into this overpackaged season of massive consumption. Ask any garbage collector and he/she will tell you that it is the busiest time of year for our over burdened landfills!

Still, this is a wonderful time of year for family and friends, and the BCIT Student Association would like to help turn some of the more negative aspects of the season into positives. Therefore, we will be hosting EcoXmas in the Great Hall during the last week of November. The purpose of the event is to offer students access to gift ideas and purchases with the environment in mind.

We would like also to offer students some ideas of gifts they could make for themselves simply, and at a low cost. We will have some special guests offering advice on making some cool gifts with earth friendly ingredients and incorporating the three R’s, such as candles, bath bombs, picture frames, masks, soaps, wrapping paper, toys and more!

Christmas should be more than just stress, debt, and making garbage. Come on out and learn some neat stuff, and support some local ethical artists!!

Any students who have arts/crafts/ideas that would fit into this category and would like to have a free vendor’s table please call Todd Johnston @ 451-7060 (office), 255-0517 (home), or send an email to todd_johnston@bcit.ca

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CGA

LAURIE HORVATH, Dipl.T., CGA
Controller
XML Global Technologies Inc.

THINK CGA.

Certified General Accountants
Association of British Columbia

Anti-terrorism legislation seen as a threat to Canadian civil liberties

AMY LAPSLEY
Link News Reporter

He was at APEC, but didn't get pepper sprayed. He was at Quebec City, but didn't get arrested. And while he doesn't condone civil disobedience such as throwing stones at police or smashing windows, he does support vocal student protest. But now, Scott Uzelman, a grad student at Simon Fraser University, is concerned that the Canadian government's new anti-terrorism legislation could prevent him from exercising his democratic right to protest.

Student protest has been a part of higher education for decades. From the revolts on American campuses in the 1960s to the WTO demonstrations in the 1990s, protest has been as much a part of campus life for some students as beer, frat parties, and pub crawls have been for others.

But with the introduction of Bill C-36, Canada's new anti-terrorism legislation, many long-time student protesters, such as Uzelman, are worried that they will now be labeled 'terrorists'. As far as Uzelman is concerned, that label is just flat out wrong and would limit his ability to speak out.

A lot of people have raised concerns about the way Bill C-36 defines "terrorism". The legislation says that terrorism is an activity for political, religious, or ideological purposes that causes death, or endangers a life, causes a risk to public safety, causes substantial property damage or disrupts an essential service. And while the legislation does make an exception for "lawful" protest, Uzelman is still concerned that protesters who engage in minor civil disobedience could be arrested and prosecuted as terrorists.

Uzelman is particularly concerned about the "property damage" and "disruption of essential service" parts of the Bill, because these are two techniques often used by protesters.



"The government should be accountable for their actions. But this legislation removes our ability to hold them accountable. Under this definition of terrorism, a strike could be considered terrorism. Or, if a protest shuts down a financial district, that could be defined as terrorism," Uzelman said.

Uzelman is not the only person who thinks the new anti-terrorism legislation goes too far in its attempts to defend Canada against terrorist actions. The Canadian Civil Liberties Union as well as the Canadian Bar Association have voiced concerns about both the definition of 'terrorism' as well as possible infringements of civil liberties that may occur once the legislation is passed.

Mr. Rice, a spokesperson for the Canadian Bar Association says that "While the Sept. 11 attacks were unquestionably terrorist, other cases may not be so clear.

What if innocent Canadians are labeled terrorists because of their participation in a political protest march? That's exactly what could happen under the legislation."

In an editorial in *The Globe and Mail*, Peter Tabuns, Executive Director of Greenpeace Canada and Civil Rights Lawyer Clayton Ruby also said that politi-

cal protest could be a casualty of the new anti-terrorism bill. They acknowledge that sometimes protesters "commit minor offenses such as trespassing or mischief" but that these techniques are often necessary to achieve "significant victories."

Tabuns and Ruby denounce the new bill, saying "because it doesn't distinguish between violent and peaceful means of expressing political opinion, her bill will chill peaceful protest."

Anne McLellan, Canada's Justice Minister, has tried to reassure political activists that the legislation will not interfere with their ability to demonstrate. When asked by reporters if the new legislation would be used against violent protesters, she said, "There may be those involved who would fit the definition of terrorism." However, she proceeded to say that "But in terms of the Council of Canadians and the students on the street in Quebec City, I do not believe that they had any intention of utilizing terror to achieve their objectives."

More recently, McLellan and her anti-terrorism bill have been criticized by more and more people, including her own colleagues. Liberal MPs Hedy Fry and Herb Dhaliwal have both publically criticized

the bill, saying that it could infringe on the rights of Canadians.

McLellan seems to be listening to her critics. While she maintains that Canada needs tough new laws to fight terrorism, McLellan is now saying that she is "open" to changing the fact that only "lawful" protests are safeguarded from the label "terrorism". If the word "lawful" is removed, the legislation would ensure that all protests, whether involving civil disobedience or not, would be excluded from the definition of terrorism.

Critics of the legislation seem to be in opposition with the vast majority of Canadians who are clamouring for an increase in security and safety since September 11th. Recent polls have shown overwhelming support for the war in Afghanistan, a support for an increase in military and security spending, and a willingness to give up some civil liberties for the guarantee of public safety.

There has also been strong support for the legislation from the RCMP, who say they need the new powers in order to prevent terrorist attacks from occurring in Canada.

In a speech to the Special Senate Committee on the proposed legislation, RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli said that the RCMP is "very supportive" of the proposed bill.

Zaccardelli also tried to alleviate fears that the new bill gives the police too much power. "The draft legislation proposes limits be placed on the activities of police. And, as exists now, police actions are subject to the limits placed on them by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

However, the assurances of the RCMP and the Justice Minister that student protesters will not be labeled "terrorists" does not make Uzelman feel any better. "It is one thing to say they won't do it. But it is another thing to give them the power to do it."

Offshore oil review worries environmentalists, First Nations

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VICTORIA
The BC Liberal government will review its policy on offshore oil and gas projects and may lift a ban on the industry as early as January.

The province is fulfilling a campaign promise to determine if oil and gas development in the Queen Charlotte Basin would be "scientifically sound and environmentally safe," said Richard Neufeld, minister of Energy and Mines.

"We are responding to what people asked us to do," Neufeld said. "There was a pretty good

indication that the people on the north coast wanted us to at least look at it."

A government-commissioned report released last week concluded that there are "no unique fatal-flaw issues" standing in the way of offshore oil and gas development in BC.

Over the next few months a three-person scientific panel will examine the issue. Five MLAs will also seek public input from north coast communities.

Neufeld said the government will gather this information and decide by the end of January whether to lift the provincial moratorium on offshore oil and gas development.

The government's time frame has left environmentalists con-

cerned.

"The thoroughness of this public consultation and scientific review has to be questioned," said Oonagh O'Connor of the Living Oceans Society in Sointula.

O'Connor said oil and gas development is not a realistic solution to the area's economic problems because it can take decades to develop the resource.

"We know global warming is occurring, we know fossil fuels are worsening the situation, and we know that it's time to change, so why would we go ahead and develop more oil at this time?" O'Connor said.

But Neufeld said oil and gas still has a major role to play in the provincial economy and could rejuvenate the northwest, which

is suffering from high unemployment.

"It will also help the province of British Columbia in the long term so we can continue to provide funding for health care and education," Neufeld said. "I don't think there will be, in 20 years, an energy source to replace hydrocarbons."

Another concern with offshore oil drilling is how it will affect B.C.'s First Nations. According to Troy Sebastian of University of Victoria's Native Student Union, the government should deal with native land claims before the drills dig in.

"The whole question of land resource utilization and aboriginal sovereignty in British Columbia, aside from a few

areas, has not fully been dealt with by Canada," Sebastian said. "It's economically expedient to end the moratorium, but it's going to be politically and culturally detrimental for the First Nations people around there."

Native bands near the Queen Charlotte Basin currently support the moratorium, but the Canadian Press reported last Friday that some may favour the money and jobs from oil development if environmental and land claims issues are properly addressed.

The Queen Charlotte Basin, located off the north coast of Vancouver Island, contains an estimated 9.8 billion barrels of oil — over three times the amount in Newfoundland's Hibernia Basin.